

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4437

To grant to the United States Postal Service the authority to issue semipostals, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2000

Mr. McHUGH (for himself and Mr. FATTAH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Commerce, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To grant to the United States Postal Service the authority to issue semipostals, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Semipostal Authoriza-  
5 tion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SEMIPOSTALS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 39, United  
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 **“§ 416. Authority to issue semipostals**

6 “(a) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the  
7 term ‘semipostal’ means a postage stamp which is issued  
8 and sold by the Postal Service, at a premium, in order  
9 to help provide funding for a particular area of medical  
10 research.

11 “(b) AUTHORITY.—The Postal Service is hereby au-  
12 thorized to issue and sell semipostals under this section.

13 “(c) RATES.—The rate of postage on a semipostal  
14 issued under this section shall be established by the Gov-  
15 ernors, in accordance with such procedures as they shall  
16 by regulation prescribe (in lieu of the procedures under  
17 chapter 36), except that—

18 “(1) the rate established for a semipostal under  
19 this section shall be equal to the rate of postage that  
20 would otherwise regularly apply, plus a differential  
21 of not to exceed 25 percent; and

22 “(2) no regular rates of postage or fees for  
23 postal services under chapter 36 shall be any dif-  
24 ferent from what they otherwise would have been if  
25 this section had not been enacted.

1 The use of any semipostal issued under this section shall  
2 be voluntary on the part of postal patrons.

3 “(d) AMOUNTS BECOMING AVAILABLE.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts becoming  
5 available from the sale of a semipostal under this  
6 section shall be transferred to the appropriate agen-  
7 cy or agencies under such arrangements as the Post-  
8 al Service shall by mutual agreement with each such  
9 agency establish.

10 “(2) AREAS OF MEDICAL RESEARCH AND AGEN-  
11 CIES.—Decisions under this section concerning areas  
12 of medical research, and the appropriate agency or  
13 agencies to receive amounts becoming available  
14 under this section, shall be made applying the cri-  
15 teria and procedures established under subsection  
16 (e).

17 “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The amounts  
18 becoming available from the sale of a semipostal  
19 under this section shall be determined in a manner  
20 similar to that provided for under section 414(c)(2)  
21 (as in effect on July 1, 2000). Any regulations  
22 under subsection (e) shall specifically address how  
23 the costs incurred by the Postal Service in carrying  
24 out this section shall be computed, recovered, and  
25 kept to a minimum.

1           “(4) OTHER FUNDING NOT TO BE AF-  
2           FECTED.—Amounts which have or may become  
3           available from the sale of a semipostal under this  
4           section shall not be taken into account in any deci-  
5           sion relating to the level of appropriations or other  
6           Federal funding to be furnished to an agency in any  
7           year.

8           “(5) AGENCY DEFINED.—For purposes of this  
9           section, the term ‘agency’ means an Executive agen-  
10          cy (as defined by section 105 of title 5).

11          “(e) REGULATIONS.—

12               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service shall  
13               prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this  
14               section, including provisions relating to—

15                       “(A) which office or other body within the  
16                       Postal Service will be responsible for making  
17                       the decisions described in subsection (d)(2);

18                       “(B) what criteria and procedures will be  
19                       applied in making those decisions;

20                       “(C) any limitations relating to the  
21                       issuance of semipostals, such as whether more  
22                       than 1 semipostal may be offered for sale at  
23                       any given time; and

24                       “(D) how the price of a semipostal will be  
25                       established.

1           “(2) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—Before any regu-  
2           lation is prescribed under this section, a copy of the  
3           proposed regulation shall be published in the Federal  
4           Register and an opportunity provided to interested  
5           parties to present written comment and, where prac-  
6           ticable, oral comment. Initial regulations shall be  
7           prescribed not later than 30 days before the date on  
8           which semipostals are first made available to the  
9           public under this section.

10          “(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

11               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Postmaster General  
12               shall include in each report rendered under section  
13               2402, with respect to any period during any portion  
14               of which this section is in effect, information con-  
15               cerning the operation of any program established  
16               under this section.

17               “(2) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT.—If any  
18               semipostal ceases to be offered during the period  
19               covered by a report, the information contained in  
20               such report shall also include—

21                       “(A) the dates as of which the sale of such  
22                       semipostal commenced and terminated;

23                       “(B) the total amount that became avail-  
24                       able from the sale of such semipostal; and

1           “(C) of that total amount, how much was  
2           applied toward medical research and how much  
3           toward administrative costs.

4           For each year before the year in which a semipostal  
5           ceases to be offered, any report under this sub-  
6           section shall include, for that semipostal and for the  
7           year covered by that report, the information de-  
8           scribed in subparagraphs (B) and (C).

9           “(g) TERMINATION.—This section shall cease to be  
10          effective at the end of the 10-year period beginning on  
11          the date on which semipostals are first made available to  
12          the public under this section.”.

13          (b) REPORTS BY AGENCIES.—Each agency that re-  
14          ceives any funding in a year under section 416 of title  
15          39, United States Code (as amended by this section) shall  
16          submit a written report under this subsection with respect  
17          to such year to the congressional committees with jurisdic-  
18          tion over the United States Postal Service. Each report  
19          under this subsection shall include—

20                (1) the total amount of funding received by  
21                such agency under section 416 of such title 39 dur-  
22                ing the year to which the report pertains;

23                (2) an accounting of how any funds received by  
24                such agency under section 416 of such title 39 were

1 allocated or otherwise used by such agency in such  
2 year; and

3 (3) a description of any medical advances or ac-  
4 complishments achieved in such year that were fund-  
5 ed, in whole or in part, out of amounts made avail-  
6 able under section 416 of such title 39.

7 (c) REPORTS BY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OF-  
8 FICE.—

9 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—The General Account-  
10 ing Office shall submit to the President and each  
11 House of Congress an interim report on the oper-  
12 ation of the program established under section 416  
13 of title 39, United States Code (as amended by this  
14 section) not later than 4 years after semipostals are  
15 first made available to the public under such section.

16 (2) FINAL REPORT.—The General Accounting  
17 Office shall transmit to the President and each  
18 House of Congress a final report on the operation of  
19 the program established under such section 416, not  
20 later than 6 months before the date it is scheduled  
21 to terminate. The final report shall contain a de-  
22 tailed statement of the findings and conclusions of  
23 the General Accounting Office, together with any  
24 recommendations it considers appropriate.

1       (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
2 for chapter 4 of title 39, United States Code, is amended  
3 by adding at the end the following:

“416. Authority to issue semipostals.”.

4       (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The program under section  
5 416 of title 39, United States Code (as amended by this  
6 section) shall be established within 6 months after the  
7 date of enactment of this Act.

8       **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SEMIPOSTALS**  
9                               **FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH.**

10       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 414 of  
11 title 39, United States Code, is amended to read as fol-  
12 lows:

13       “(g) This section shall cease to be effective after July  
14 29, 2002, or the end of the 2-year period beginning on  
15 the date of enactment of the Semipostal Authorization  
16 Act, whichever is later.”.

17       (b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—No later than 3  
18 months and no earlier than 6 months before the date as  
19 of which section 414 of title 39, United States Code (as  
20 amended by this section) is scheduled to expire, the Comp-  
21 troller General of the United States shall submit to the  
22 Congress a report on the operation of such section. Such  
23 report shall be in addition to the report required by section  
24 2(b) of Public Law 105–41, and shall address at least the



- 1 same matters as were required to be included in that ear-
- 2 lier report.

